

18. (Amended) The method according to claim 17 wherein [the] said zinc binding agent is [one or more] selected from the group consisting of [phytic acid and its derivatives, desferrioxamine,] sodium citrate, EDTA, 1,2-diethyl-3-hydroxypyridin-4-one and 1-hydroxyethyl-3-hydroxy-2-methylpyridin-4-one.

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19. (Amended) The method according to claim 17 wherein [the] said zinc binding agent is orally administered to said patient.

20. (Amended) The method according to claim [16] 17 wherein said patient is subjected to a diet low in free zinc.

21. (Amended) The method according to claim [16] 17 wherein an agent is administered to said patient which [is capable of blocking one or more components] blocks at least one component of a zinc transport system so as to reduce zinc uptake by said patient.

Please add the following claims:

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25. A method for treating Alzheimer's disease in a patient, comprising subjecting said patient to a means capable of crossing the blood-brain barrier, wherein said means binds a divalent or trivalent cation within the central nervous system and modulates the interaction between said divalent or trivalent cation and/or heparin with amyloid precursor protein (APP) within the central nervous system.

26. The method according to claim 16, wherein said cation is zinc.

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27. A method of screening compounds useful in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, comprising assessing the ability of a candidate compound to inhibit the interaction between a divalent or trivalent cation with amyloid precursor protein (APP), and assessing the ability of said candidate compound to cross the blood-brain barrier, thereby determining the efficacy of said candidate compound as a therapeutic agent in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please delete the Abstract of record and insert new abstract:

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--The present invention is directed to methods for treating Alzheimer's Disease by modulating divalent cation, trivalent cation and/or heparin interaction with amyloid precursor protein (APP). In particular, the present invention is directed to methods for treating Alzheimer's Disease by administering to a patient with Alzheimer's Disease a therapeutically effective amount of a zinc binding agent for modulating the interaction of zinc and/or heparin with APP and thereby preventing the aberrant processing of APP--.

REMARKS

Applicants submit the foregoing preliminary amendment in connection with the filing of the above-identified application. Claims 1-14 and 22-24 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more